

The RAMPOL

FROM THE GREATER CLEVELAND SINCLAIR TIMEX USERS GROUP



Where will you be August 27-28, 1988?
We hope you will be here in Cleveland
for the THIRD MIDWESTERN SINCLAIR
COMPUTER CONFERENCE!

*We hope you will forgive the smaller issue
for this 3 months. As you can well imagine, the
Conference has kept us very busy!*

We have TWO meeting every month:

EAST SIDE meeting: First Friday:
In the Euclidian room at
Euclid Square Mall (between Babbitt
and E260th off of 90
***** 7:30pm *****

WEST SIDE meeting: Third Friday:
In the basement of the Lakewood
Library. 15425 Detroit Ave.
***** 7:00pm *****

PLEASE ATTEND!!!

We have TWO BBS's:
TIMELINES: Open to T/S
users only. Online 10pm to
6am EST. 300/1200 Baud,
8/1/N, Phone: 216-671-6922
SYSOP: Robert Parish

CLEVELAND FREE NET: Open to
all types of computers. We
have a Special Intrest
Group on this board. Phone:
216-368-3888, 24 hours,
300/1200/2400 Baud.

HERE IS THE LATEST THAT WE HAVE ON THE THIRD MIDWEST SINCLAIR COMPUTER CONFERENCE! HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE PROGRAM

The 1988 MIDWEST TIMEX AND SINCLAIR

COMPUTER CONFERENCE

CLEVELAND OHIO

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, AUGUST 27th & 28th, 1988

AT

THE BECK CENTER FOR THE ARTS
17801 DETROIT AVE.
LAKEWOOD, OHIO

Sponsored by THE GREATER CLEVELAND SINCLAIR USER'S GROUP
With the following co-sponsors:

ZEBRA SYSTEMS, CUYAHOGA VALLEY SOFTWARE, SYNCWARE NEWS,
LEMKE SOFTWARE, BUDGET ROBOTICS, THE JOHN OLIGER COMPANY,
SHARPS INC., BRICE ROAD PHARMACY, SAF MICHIGAN, CATS, ISTUG,
and THE SW PENNSYLVANIA USERS GROUP.

ADMISSION: \$4.00 SINGLE DAY
\$7.00 FOR BOTH DAYS (INCLUDES SATURDAY
NIGHT HOSPITALITY)

HOTELS:

RAMADA INN, 20375 CENTER RIDGE RD. (US RT. 20)
ROCKY RIVER, OH 1-800-272-6232 \$39.90,
SINGLE OR DOUBLE, CLOSESET HOTEL, NEAR I-90.

RED ROOF INN, I-90 & CROCKER RD, WESTLAKE, OH
1-800-848-7878, \$29.50 SINGLE, \$34.00 DOUBLE

SCOTTISH INN, 22115 BROOKPARK RD., FAIVIEW PARK, OH
216-734-4500, \$28.50 SINGLE, \$34 DOUBLE, NEAR I-480

DAYS INN, 4181 W. 150th, CLEVELAND, OH, 216-252-7700
\$52 SINGLE, \$58 DOUBLE, NEAR I-71

A complete listing is available on Compuserve in the club
section; on Timelines BBS, 216-671-6922, 10PM-6AM EST or SASE.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27th:

EXHIBIT HOURS: 9AM TO 4PM

SEMINARS: 10AM TO 6PM

FLEA MARKET: 4PM TO 6PM

SEMINAR TOPICS:

MS DOS FOR THE AMSTAD: DICK SEIG

ROBOTICS WITH T/S COMPUTERS: BRUCE TAYLOR,
BUDGET ROBOTICS

FORTH UPDATE FOR THE Z-80: GARY GANGER,
DAYTON COMPUTER SOCIETY

VIDEO DIGITIZING: JAMES G. DUPUY, GCSUG

THE PC-8300: RON HOPKINS-LUTZ, GCSUG

Z-80 MACHINE CODE PROGRAMING: BASIL WENTWORTH,
SYNCWARE NEWS

HARDWARE PROJECTS: JAMES G. DUPUY, GCSUG
JAMES LEWIS, GCSUG

"C" LANGUAGE SEMINAR: DAVID HOSHOR, GCSUG

SATURDAY EVENING, 8PM HOSPITALITY AND USERS MEETING

This is a current list but changes could be made. (Seminars)
HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!!!



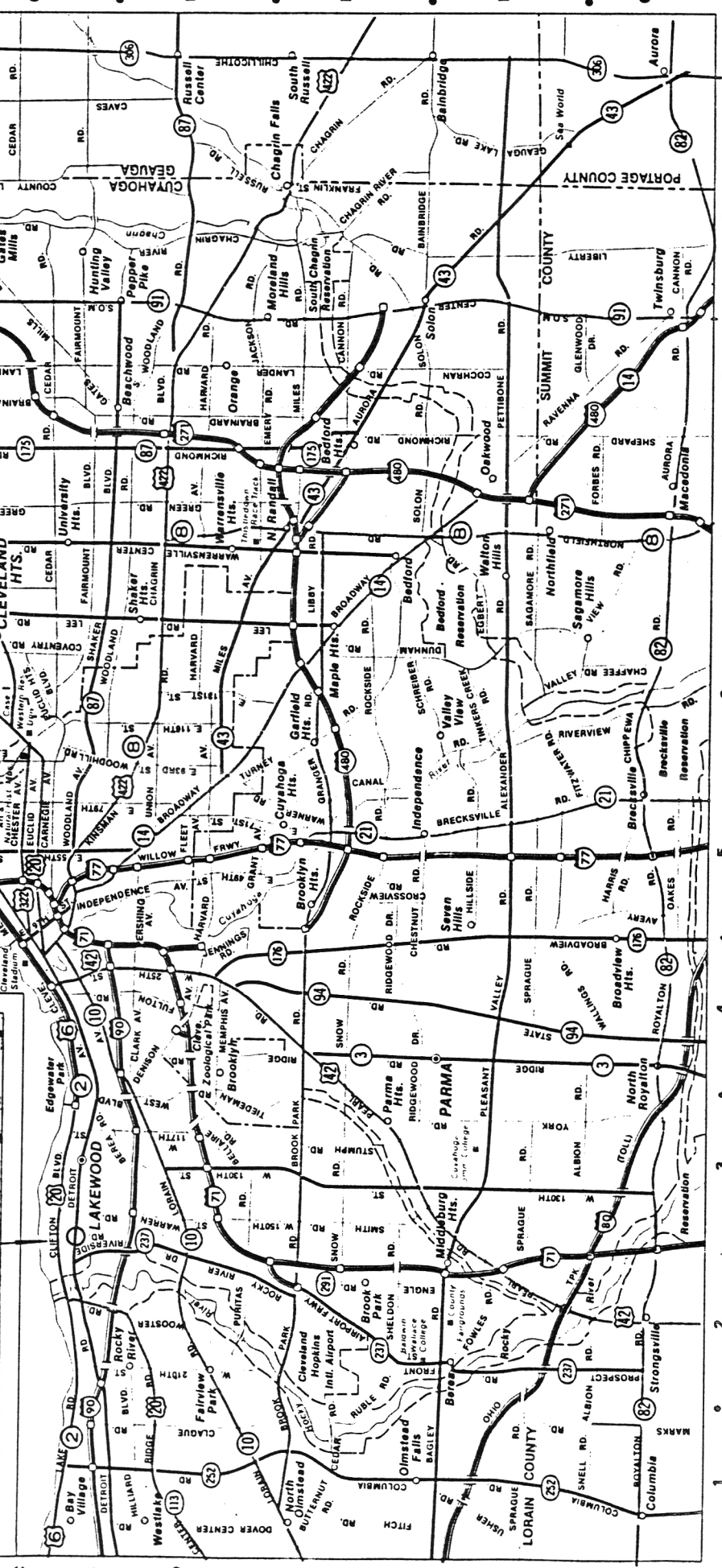
CLEVELAND

- LIMITED ACCESS HIGHWAYS
- PRIMARY THRU HIGHWAYS
- OTHER IMPORTANT THRU HIGHWAYS
- OTHER CONNECTING HIGHWAYS



**BECK CENTER
FOR THE ARTS
(LAKELAND
THEATRE)**

EDgewater Drive
CLIFTON BLVD.
CLIFTON AVE.
HALL AVE.
WEBB AVE.
NORFOLK RD.
DETROIT RD.
CLIFTON RD.
LAKELAND AVE.
LAKELAND BLVD.
MADISON AVE.
RIVERVIEW AVE.
CLAYTON AVE.
CLAYTON BLVD.
CLAYTON RD.
CLAYTON AVE.
CLAYTON BLVD.
CLAYTON RD.
CLAYTON AVE.
CLAYTON BLVD.
CLAYTON RD.



MAY/JUNE/JULY EDITORIAL

Howdy! The time is growing near! Soon the THIRD MIDWESTERN SINCLAIR COMPUTER CONFERENCE will become a reality! I know I am looking forward to seeing many of you there. I will be giving a seminar on video digitizing with a 2048. Please note that the picture of the Terral Tower was done with my casacorder and the digitizer. Those of you interested in this be sure to be there Saturday. I will be digitizing many of you for future issues of the RAMTOP! (I will be passing out many copies too.)

I have received a couple of CHANGES in the seminars that will be presented at the conference. 1- Due to an illness in the family, Bill Ferrebee (Desk Top Publishing) will not be attending the conference. In his place will be Dick Seig discussing MS DOS for the AMSTRAD. We have no further details about Bill, but we sure hope things turn out OK! 2- We have a new sponsor! This is Gary Solomon representing Brice Road Pharmacy. We had Gary here for a demo on the Amstrad PC. It was very interesting!

Although John Olinger will not be attending the conference, we will have literature about his disk system and the latest about his 2.5 SAFE DOS. We will also have a couple of systems running the Olinger disk system. I have this system and feel that it's the BEST! It is also compatible with SPDOS. This DOS does use a bit of RAM but allows a lot of nice features. Tom Simon will be representing Cuyahoga Valley Software, the distributors of SPDOS.

All of you that intend to attend the hardware seminar, please bring a cassette recorder (voice) or a note pad. The projects to be discussed are simple but notes are important. We will be discussing modifications also. Those of you who plan to build the DIGITIZER please bring a cassette to get a copy of the software.

COMPUTER TIP FOR THE SINCLAIR LINE: Are you like me and have a real stack of boards behind your computer? If so, you may be overloading the expansion bus. I recently had my 2048 bite the big one. I have no proof that overloading was my problem, but I do have a bunch of boards connected. (Olinger expansion with "A", "B", Kempston adapter, Digitizer, 2040, 2050, and a centronics printer interface. All these with the exception of the Olinger "B" board (I have an old "A" board) have 74LS series ICs in them. Although the LS ICs are low power, there are in my case, enough to be an overload according to the TIMEX service manual. A very easy fix for this is to sub out the LS ICs for HCT. (74HCT00) The "HCT" stands for High speed CMOS TTL compatible. I have found the HC series also works 99% of the time. The ICs that really need to be changed are the ones that have any direct connection to the computer. Of course you may use all HC or HCTs since this will also drop power consumption dramatically and each HCT or HC presents almost no load to the computer. After changing to HC I cut my 5 volt amp draw from 400 MA to 280 MA! (I have a separate 5 volt supply for the extras) A few examples of LS chips to change are the 74LS10 in the connector PCB of the 2040, the address ICs in the 2050 modem (very early models), the LS ICs on the Aerco printer interface. The newer Olinger boards use HCTs. Please note that switching ICs is not a necessity unless you have a lot of extra boards attached. A sure sign of overloading is a computer that crashes for no reason. I had a Z-80A go out about 9 months before the final outage. Remember that the Z-80 and the SCLD in the 2048 (ULA) in the 1000/1500 have many direct connections to the expansion bus!

PLEASE NOTE THAT IF YOU DECIDE TO CHANGE ICs ON YOUR EXTRA BOARDS IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU OBSERVE PROPER GROUNDING PROCEDURES! THIS MEANS THAT YOU SHOULD USE A STATIC GROUNDED SOLDERING IRON (10-30 WATT) AND A WRIST STRAP! FAILURE TO DO THIS CAN RESULT IN DAMAGE TO YOUR COMPUTER OR PERIPHERALS! Please also note that we WILL NOT be responsible for damages! You do this at your OWN risk! Please also note that there are TWO 7416 (or 7406) ICs on the OLINGER "A" board. DO NOT CHANGE THESE! If you have to desolder an IC, you would be wise to put in a socket instead of soldering the new ICs in directly on the board. Future serviceability will much easier. I used all HC and all works fine. JAMCO is a good supplier.

James G. DuPuy

NORTH COAST COMPUTER FAIR
CANCELLED

The Fair scheduled for October 1 and 2 at Euclid Square Mall has been cancelled by the new management at the Mall. Despite earlier assurances that this year's Fair would operate under the same conditions as last year the manager insisted on our providing liability insurance. When we could not do this they cancelled the Fair.

The idea of the Fair is still a good one. Akron does very well with theirs. If anyone out there would like to scout out a new location and take over the coordinator job, feel free to do so. I would give the benefit of my experience but would not undertake the job. As the NCCF name may be registered, a new name would be needed.

Max Schoenfeld
Ex-Coordinator

We are currently getting ready for the Midwest Computer conference coming up August 27th and 28th. If you can give a few hours of time to help with the conference either at the exhibit table or registration desk if you haven't already. We need maximum participation to make this a good event. Remember we are part of a shrinking user base that needs every "Survivor" that's out there! CW Associates has announced that they will be attending the Midwest Computer Conference. They specialize in QL related products.

In a Time Designs evaluation of newsletters, we were judged 4th best in the country of all the Sinclair user groups. Give Greg most of the credit and help him by sending in your articles and reviews and programs.

Recently I had a chance to check out a copy of Steve Sutton's Lightning Program for the QL. While I can not compare it to Speed Screen, it is very fast and does speed up the screen handling routines on the QL. The program has a variety of modules that the user chooses to add to his programs. The memory used ranges from 1.5K to about 4kn depending upon what routines are added. Dave Hoshor will have complete review next issue. Also of interest is an advertisement in QL World for a QL emulation package for the ATARI ST. The cost is about 199 Pounds. At this price one could purchase 4 unexpanded QL's. This may be a desirable piece of software should the price come down, especially for our black sheep who have gone over to the ST. It been said that a QL operating system on the ST hardware would be a killer combination.

One of our more advanced members has said he would like to write what could become THE dream software. Could there be any interest for a 2068 emulator for the PC?

One thing I have been doing lately is using a friend's copy of the AROS version of HOT-2. Previously I was not advanced enough to use it (and still may not be). Now I find that it is as powerful or more so than the Spectrum Program Machine Lightning. It is not quite as easy to use, being an extremely thorough and complex program. Perhaps one of the enlightened ones out there will write a series of articles or perhaps a book on the use of this program. Once the system is learned like anything it becomes an extremely powerful tool. You are able to look at code while it is in memory and you don't have to worry about loading the code into a different part of memory and examine it there. With Hot-2 all parts of Ram are accessible. Hot-2 is transparent until you need it. Ray Kingsley still has it available. Write to him at 1710 Oliver Ave., San Diego, California 92109 and enclose a SASE.

An unnamed source, close to the heart of that most eclectic company, the Cuyahoga Valley Software Works, tells me that they will be coming out with several new products to be released at the Computer Conference. We'll just have to wait and see what they are.

A new version of Q_Link has been released by Meta Media Productions, 726 West 17th St., Vancouver, BC V5T 1T9, Canada. It is an upgrade of previous versions and includes a de-arc-ing utility which alone should be worth its weight in gold. Arcing is a form of data compression commonly used on BBSs and other user access systems.

Bill Jones, publisher of 2068 Updates, is soliciting subscriptions for his second year of publication. The last quarterly issue of the year had a very intriguing article about bank switching and memory expansion on the 2068. Updates began primarily concerned with Oliger hardware and software but now supports all Sinclair DOS formats. Subscriptions are \$15. send to Updates, 1317 Stratford Ave., Panama City, Florida 32404.

From the Message Base of Timelines....BBS
Data Line 1-216-671-6922 From 10 PM to 6 AM E.S.T.

MODAPTER ELIMINATION SUPPER BASIC PROGRAM

This program was keyed in to the message base of Timelines BBS by Pete Fischer from Phoenix, Arizona. It should enable you to use a 300 baud modem with out the Modadapter hard-ware adapter for the QL that was required to use a 300 baud modem. After keying in and saving as MIKE_TERM_BASE, Load and run with modem attached to SER#2. Choose Baud rate and give commands to your modem. If Hayes Compatable, AT DT phone no.

```
1 REMark          300/1200 BAUD TERMINAL
2 REMark          MIKE_TERM
3 REMark          Developed by
4 REMark          MICHAEL MITCHELL
5 REMark          Attribution Requested
6 REMark          Sinclair/Timex Uesr's Group
7 REMark          Boston Computer Society
100 WINDOW 465,204,6,0
105 BORDER 1,0,7: LB=127
110 CLS: POKE 163976,255: CLS#0
120 PRINT#0,,"Choose Baud:          H=1200, L=300"
130 IF INKEY$(-1)=="h" THEN BAUD 1200:ELSE BAUD 300
140 CLS#0: OPEN#5,SER2i
150 PRINT#0,,"F5=QUIT", "ALT^C=^C", "^G=BELL"
155 REMark for your info ^=CTRL (^C)=CNTRL C, (^G)=CNTRL G
160 REPEAT TERM
170 TERMINAL: PRINT#0,,"Exit?(y/n)"
180 IF INKEY$(-1)=="Y" THEN EXIT TERM
190 END REPEAT TERM
200 CLOSE#5
205 PRINT#0,,"Re-run/Quit? (r/q)"
210 IF INKEY$(-1)=="R" THEN RUN:ELSE STOP
220 DEFine PROCEDURE TERMINAL
230 REPEAT key_loop
240 a=CODE(INKEY$(#5,0))&&LB
250 IF a=13 THEN PRINT
260 IF a=7 THEN BEEP 2000,15
270 IF a>31 THEN PRINT CHR$(a);
280 b=CODE(INKEY$)
290 IF b=248 THEN EXIT key_loop
300 IF b=255 THEN b=0
310 IF b=0 THEN NEXT key_loop
320 IF b=10 THEN b=13
330 IF b=208 THEN b=7
340 PRINT#5, CHR$(b);
350 END REPEAT key_loop
360 RETURN
370 END DEFine TERMINAL
380 REMark SAVE AS MIKE_TERM_BASE
```

***! NEWS FLASH ***

2 New vendors at
the conference:

PROMISE LAND
ELECTRONICS

and

C & W ASSOCIATES

Article by: Robert Parish QLCAPS.BAS was Uploaded to Timelines....BBS
by Don Waltermann. Caps Lock Indicator For Use With Quill Word Processor

Key in the following QL Supper Basic program character for
character. Save it as QLCAPS_BAS. Run the program. When asked for you
to input a number, select the bracketed default number for the number
to input for creating caps on, caps off indicator for Quill. When
finished the program will create the file "caps_bin". Copy caps_bin to
your Quill program media cartridge or disk. Place in line 8 of BOOT
for Quill, i.e. 8 EXEC CAPS_BIN:EXEC_W mdv1_QLWP.

Or use this line for Disk drive/s with Tool Kit II.

8 FLP_USE MDV:EXEC CAPS_BIN:EXEC_MDV1_QLWP

You can run the program QLCAPS_BAS and change the location numbers
for the window. By doing that you can place it anywhere on the screen
that you may require a caps on off indicator. The following works great
on my QLterm, 48,14,422,240. If you have Tool Kit II and QLterm 2.0
place these lines in you boot file after running QLCAPS_BAS and using
the window size location numbers above.

145 OPEN #5,ser_90X10A330X240:CLOCK #5,"\$m %d %h:%m:%s"

160 EXEC dev\$&"caps_bin"

100 WINDOW 512,206,0,0:PAPER 0:INK 7

110 MODE 4

120 PRINT TO 30;"CAPS LOCK INDICATOR"

130 PRINT "\\ Type the number in the brackets if you wish to use the
routine with QUILL. '\\

140 INPUT 'Border width (0) : '!border_width

150 INPUT 'Border colour (0) : '!border_colour

160 INPUT 'Paper colour (0) : '!paper_colour

170 INPUT 'Ink colour (2) : '!ink_colour

180 INPUT 'Window width (50) : '!window_width

190 INPUT 'Window height (10) : '!window_height

200 INPUT 'X coord (200) : '!xcoord

210 INPUT 'Y coord (245) : '!ycoord

220 RESTORE

230 address=ALCHP(110)

250 REMark Use RESPR(110) in line 230 if you do not have this extra
command (ALCHP) that is in Tool Kit II

270 FOR num_bytes=0 TO 93

280 READ byte

290 POKE address+num_bytes,byte

300 END FOR num_bytes

310 POKE_W address+94,window_width

320 POKE_W address+96,window_height

330 POKE_W address+98,xcoord

340 POKE_W address+100,ycoord

360 REMark use MDV in the next line if you do not have disc drives

380 SEXEC flp1_caps_bin,address,110,0

400 REMark If you used the RESPR command in line 230 then do not type
in line 420

420 RECHP address

430 DATA 96,12,0,0,0,0,74,251,0,4

440 DATA 67,65,80,83,112,11,114,255,116,1

450 DATA 78,65,52,120,0,200,67,250,0,62

460 DATA 78,146,40,124,0,2,128,136,118,255

470 DATA 116,8,12,20,0,0,103,10,67,250

480 DATA 0,24,112,7,78,67,96,8,67,250

490 DATA 0,22,112,7,78,67,112,17,114,0

500 DATA 78,67,96,224,67,65,80,83,32,79

510 DATA 78,32,67,65,80,83,32,79,70,70

520 DATA border_width,border_colour,paper_colour,ink_colour

If you would like to subscribe to the RAMTOP please fill out this form and send it to the listed address along with a check for: \$15/Year or \$7.50/ 6 mo. to become a member of our Group (Attend meetings, use library tapes Ect.) Please make checks payable to the RAMTOP! (The phone # is only for our records!) This INCLUDES useage of our TIMELINES BBS! (216-671-6922, 8-N-1) Times of useage are 10PM to 6AM (EST) 7 days a week.

*Please print! Enclosed: \$ _____ for 1 year__ / 6 months__ *
*
*NAME: _____ PHONE: _____ - - - *
*
*STREET: _____ We need your phone # *
* for our records! *
*
*CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ *
*
*Type of computer(s) and peripheral(s) you own: _____ *
*
*
* *THANK YOU for your interest!* Please send to: *
*Robert Parish, 12706 Leeila Ave., Cleveland, OH 44135 *

From:
THE GREATER CLEVELAND SINCLAIR USER GROUP
JAMES G. DUPUY (EDITOR OF THE RAMTOP)
6514 Bradley Ave. (DOWN)
Parma, Ohio 44129

TO:

FIRST CLASS MAIL